SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

24-11-2026

Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

CNBC TV18

RBI Retains SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks

The three lenders will be required to hold additional capital buffers as a percentage of the risk-weighted assets (RWA) over and above the...

Why in News?

- The **RBI** retained **SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank** in its 2026 list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), with unchanged capital requirements.

Framework and Identification

- D-SIBs are banks considered **'Too Big to Fail'** because of their size, interconnectedness, complexity, cross-jurisdictional activities and lack of substitutability.
- Their failure could disrupt essential banking services and the overall economy.
- The **RBI introduced the D-SIB framework in 2014**, requiring annual disclosure of designated banks and their classification into different buckets based on **Systemic Importance Scores (SIS)**.
- Higher buckets attract higher additional **Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1)** capital requirements.

2026 Classification and Capital Requirements

Bank	Bucket	Additional CET1 Requirement
SBI	4	0.80%
HDFC Bank	2	0.40%
ICICI Bank	1	0.20%

- These requirements are calculated as a percentage of **Risk-Weighted Assets (RWAs)** and are over and above the **Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB)**.
- SBI was designated a D-SIB in **2015**, ICICI Bank in **2016**, and HDFC Bank in **2017**.

Sheshnag Lake

Why in News?

- A purported video showing an excavator operating near **Sheshnag**

The Times of India

Video of bulldozer near sacred Sheshnag lake triggers row in Kashmir - here's what happened

NEW DELHI: A video showing a JCB operating near Sheshnag Lake along the Amarnath Yatra route in Jammu and Kashmir has triggered a political...

Lake, a high-risk glacial lake in Jammu and Kashmir, triggered environmental concerns.

Geographical Location and Features

- Sheshnag Lake is located near **Pahalgam in Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir**, along the Pahalgam–Amarnath pilgrimage route.
- It lies at an altitude of approximately **3,590 metres** and measures around **1.1 km in length and 0.1 km in width**.
- It is an **oligotrophic alpine lake**, characterised by low nutrient levels and limited algal growth, resulting in clear water.
- The lake is surrounded by **Kunyirhayan**, a group of three mountain peaks with heights of 16,850 ft, 16,570 ft and 16,310 ft.

Environmental Concerns

- Unregulated construction and excavation near glacial lakes can disturb fragile mountain ecosystems.
- Loose moraine deposits and glacial surroundings make such lakes vulnerable to **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**.

Hydrological and Ecological Significance

- The lake is primarily fed by glaciers and is surrounded by steep slopes and loose **moraine deposits**.
- It completely freezes during winter and drains into a tributary of the **Lidder River**.
- It is among the **14 high-risk glacial lakes identified in Jammu and Kashmir** for monitoring environmental vulnerabilities.

Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project

BW BW Businessworld

Modi, Nepal PM Set Stage For Rs 5,792 Cr Lower Arun Project

India and Nepal have advanced the development of the 669 MW Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal...



Why in News?

- India and Nepal laid the foundation stone for the **Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project**, being developed by India's SJVN, with an estimated investment of **₹5,792.36 crore**.

Geographical and Project Features

- The project is a **run-of-the-river hydroelectric project** planned on the **Arun River**, a tributary of the Koshi River, in eastern Nepal.
- It is located across **Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur districts** of Nepal.
- The project has an installed capacity of **669 MW**, comprising four generating units of **167.25 MW each**.

- Its infrastructure includes a **17.4-km headrace tunnel** and a surface powerhouse.

Institutional Framework and Technology

- The project is being developed by **SJVN Lower Arun Power Development Company Pvt. Ltd. (SLPDC)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN.
- **SJVN Limited** is a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the **Ministry of Power**.
- It will be implemented under the **Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model**.
- It is integrated with the **900 MW Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project**, located upstream on the same river.
- Under the **tandem operation system**, water discharged from Arun-3 will be reused for electricity generation at Lower Arun, reducing the need for a separate storage reservoir.

Energy Generation and Bilateral Significance

- The project is expected to generate approximately **2,901 million units of electricity annually**.
- Under the Project Development Agreement, **21% of the electricity generated will be provided free of cost to Nepal**.
- The project will strengthen India–Nepal energy cooperation and support cross-border electricity trade.

Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project: Related Facts

- Arun-3 is a **900 MW run-of-the-river project** being developed on the Arun River in Sankhuwasabha district, Nepal.
- It involves a **70-metre-high and 466-metre-long concrete gravity dam**.
- It is being developed by **SJVN Arun-III Power Development Company (SAPDC)** under the BOOT model.
- SAPDC will operate the project for **25 years after construction**, before transferring ownership to the Nepalese government.
- Its annual electricity generation is estimated at **4,018.87 million units**, with power exported to India through the **Dhalkebar–Muzaffarpur transmission route**.

Santhal Tribe

Why in News?

- The **Jharkhand High Court** ruled that Santhal daughters cannot be denied inheritance rights in their father's property solely on the basis of traditional beliefs.

The New Indian Express

Santhal custom cannot deny daughters' ancestral property rights without proof: Jharkhand HC

The High Court also upheld the judgment of a lower appellate court in a land dispute dating back nearly 41 years involving Turka village in...



Distribution and Linguistic Identity

- The **Santhals are the third-largest Scheduled Tribe community in India**, after the Gonds and Bhils.
- They are primarily concentrated in **Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha**.
- They speak **Santhali**, a language belonging to the **Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family**.
- Santhali is included in the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution** and is written in the **Ol Chiki script**.

Socio-Cultural Characteristics

- Santhals traditionally worship nature and offer prayers at **Jaher**, their sacred village groves.
- Their traditional houses, called **Olah**, feature three-colour wall patterns using black soil at the bottom, white in the middle and red at the top.
- **Enej** refers to dance, while **Sereng** refers to music in Santhal culture.
- Divorce is socially recognised, and either spouse can initiate it.

Other Important News of the day

Places in News

Bulgaria

Telangana Today

India, Bulgaria exchange five-year roadmap to strengthen bilateral partnership



India and Bulgaria have exchanged a five-year roadmap to strengthen bilateral ties. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Bulgarian

Why in News?

- The Bulgarian Foreign Minister recently met the **President of India** to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Geographical Location and Boundaries

- Bulgaria lies in **Southeastern Europe**, occupying the eastern part of the **Balkan Peninsula**.
- Its capital is **Sofia**, and the **Black Sea** borders it in the east.
- Its land neighbours are **Romania (north), Turkey and Greece (south), North Macedonia (southwest) and Serbia (west)**.

Physical Geography and Climate

- It has a **moderate continental climate** with Mediterranean influences in the south.
- The **Balkan Mountains** cross central Bulgaria, while the **Rhodope Mountains** lie in the south along the Greek border.

- **Mount Musala (2,925 metres)** in the **Rila Mountains** is its highest peak.



Rivers and Natural Resources

- Major rivers include the **Danube, Iskur, Maritsa, Struma, Tundzha and Yantra**.
- Important mineral resources include **bauxite, copper, lead, zinc and coal**.

Water Bodies in News

Manjeera River

Telangana Today

[Toxic foam covers Manjeera as industrial pollution contaminates river]

Thick white foam has covered the Manjeera after Nakkavagu carried industrial effluents and residential wastewater into the river,...



Why in News?

- Thick white foam was observed covering the **Manjeera River** after the Nakkavagu stream reportedly carried industrial effluents and residential wastewater into it.

	Geographical Course and Drainage ➢ The **Manjeera River** is a tributary of the **Godavari River** and flows through **Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana**. ➢ It originates in the **Balaghat hill range near Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra**, at an altitude of approximately 823 metres. ➢ Its final stretch forms part of the boundary between Maharashtra in the west and Telangana in the east. ➢ It joins the Godavari near **Basara in Telangana**, close to Nizamabad. ➢ Its total catchment area is approximately **30,844 sq. km**. **Tributaries and River Projects** ➢ Important tributaries include **Haldi (Haridra), Lendi, Nalla, Manyad, Terna, Tawarja and Gharni**. ➢ Major water projects on the river include **Singur Dam (Singur Reservoir)** and the **Nizam Sagar Project**. ➢ The confluence region is traditionally associated with the **Triveni Sangamam**, involving the Manjeera, Godavari and Haridra rivers.
Defence	**Ashank – Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft** पीआईबी DELIVERY OF ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHALLOW WATER CRAFT, 'ASHANK' (YARD 3036) 'Ashank', one of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and...  **Why in News?** - The Indian Navy recently received **Ashank**, an indigenously designed Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, at Visakhapatnam. **Indigenous Development and Design** ➢ The vessel has been built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**. ➢ It has been designed and constructed according to the classification rules of the **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)**. ➢ The vessel has more than **80% indigenous content**, supporting India's domestic defence manufacturing ecosystem. **Technological and Operational Features** ➢ It is equipped with **lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers and advanced sonar systems**.

- It uses **waterjet propulsion**, making it part of the largest Indian naval warships powered by this technology.

Maritime Security Significance

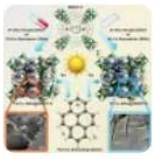
- It will strengthen the Indian Navy's **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), coastal surveillance and mine-laying capabilities**.
- Its primary operational role is to detect and counter underwater threats in **shallow and coastal waters**.
- Indigenous construction supports the objectives of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and reduces dependence on defence imports.

Science and Technology

Pyrene Pollution

www.pib.gov.in

New advanced material developed by incorporating metallic nanowires into MOFs can harness sunlight to degrade pollutants



A novel material developed by scientists through incorporating metallic nanowires into metal–organic framework (MOF), can harness a broad...

Why in News?

- Scientists developed a novel light-driven material by incorporating metallic nanowires into a **Metal–Organic Framework (MOF)** to degrade pollutants such as pyrene.

Chemical Composition and Properties

- **Pyrene** is a persistent **Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH)** consisting of four fused benzene rings.
- It is formed mainly through the **incomplete combustion of organic materials** and is found in coal tar pitch.
- It is a pale-yellow crystalline powder that is flammable, insoluble in water and soluble in ethanol and diethyl ether.
- It possesses **carcinogenic and mutagenic properties** and can persist in environmental matrices.

Environmental and Chemical Significance

- Pyrene contaminates **soil, water and the atmosphere**, contributing to persistent environmental pollution.
- It exhibits high **thermal stability, fluorescence quantum efficiency and carrier mobility**.
- It undergoes electrophilic substitution reactions such as **halogenation, nitration and sulfonation**.

	Industrial Applications and Pollution Control ➢ Pyrene is used as a raw material in **organic synthesis**. ➢ Its oxidation produces **1,4,5,8-naphthalenetetracarboxylic acid**, which is used in dyes, synthetic resins and engineering plastics. ➢ The newly developed light-driven MOF material offers a potential approach for the degradation of persistent organic pollutants.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy 2026



Why in News?

- Uttar Pradesh introduced the **Data Centre Policy 2026** to attract investments exceeding **₹2 lakh crore** and develop over **2 GW additional data centre capacity**.

Objectives and Key Provisions

- Approved by the **UP Cabinet on 6 July 2026**, it replaces the **2021 Data Centre Policy**.
- Promotes an **AI-ready, green and sustainable data centre ecosystem**, including **Tier III and Tier IV-certified facilities**.
- Encourages new data centres to obtain at least **50% renewable energy by 2030**.

Financial Incentives

- **Interest Subsidy:** Up to ₹50 crore for data centre parks.
- **Capital Subsidy:** Up to ₹20 crore for individual data centre units.
- **Land Subsidy:** 25% in **Madhyanchal and Paschimanchal** and 50% in **Bundelkhand and Purvanchal** on eligible land acquired from state agencies.
- **Stamp Duty:** 100% exemption on eligible government land purchases or leases and 50% on subsequent transfers from parks to units.
- **Electricity Duty:** 100% exemption for **10 years**.

Project Eligibility

- **Data Centre Park:** Minimum load capacity of **40 MW**.
- **Data Centre Unit:** More than **2 MW but less than 40 MW**.

- **Edge Data Centre:** At least **10 centres**, each with a minimum capacity of **50 kW**, and combined load of at least **2 MW**; captive edge data centres are excluded.

AI and Green Infrastructure

- Provides additional incentives for eligible **AI computing infrastructure, green certification and renewable energy adoption**.
- Seeks to attract investments in **AI, cloud computing, digital services and data infrastructure**.